

2021 NEPSR Virtual Pipeline Safety Seminar

April 27, 2021

Maine

Gas Safety and Damage
Prevention Programs

Maine Public Utilities Commission



Pipeline Safety & Damage Prevention Programs

Consumer Assistance and Safety Division

Derek Davidson - Director



Program Personnel

- Pipeline Safety

- Nathan Dore – Inspector
- Sean Watson – Inspector
- Gary Kenny – Program Manager
- Hattie Trask – Administration

- Damage Prevention

- Rick LeClair – Investigator
- Barry Truman – Investigator
- Hattie Trask – Administration

- Legal

- Jordan (Jody) McColman – Staff Attorney for Natural Gas Safety, LPG Safety, and Damage Prevention



Intrastate Pipeline Facilities Under MPUC Safety Jurisdiction

As of December 31, 2020

- Transmission Pipelines: 84 miles (four pipelines)
- Distribution Pipelines: 1,347 (four operators)
- Number of services: 38,250
- LNG: One Satellite Facility
- LPG Facilities: 600+/- (32 operators)
- CNG Facility: One Facility



Distribution Main Materials

- Plastic: 1,110 mi 80.4%
- Protected Steel: 240 mi 17.4%
- Cast Iron: 25.4 mi 1.8%
- Unprotected Steel: 5.2 mi 0.4%

Cast Iron and Unprotected Steel Replacement is scheduled to be Complete in 2024.

Approx. 7 miles retired in 2020 and
31 miles to go.



Inspections

- 255 Inspection Person Days in 2020
- 2021 and 2022 Inspection Focus
 - Review most records annually
 - DIMP regarding leak surveys
 - Emergency response liaisons
 - Program reviews on four-year cycles
 - Continued emphasis on Construction and field OQ
 - LPG Operators' O&M Procedure and Emergency Plans
 - Drug & Alcohol – Alternating Operators/Contractors
 - QA/CC Programs and/or records



Enforcement Issues with NOPVs 2018 to the Present – Natural Gas

- Civil Penalties Issued Totaled \$110,000
 - 1/18: Failure to construct in accordance with specifications, §192.303: \$15,000
 - 1/18: Failure to be qualified to join pipe and inspect pipe joining, §192.285 and 287: \$15,000
 - 4/18: Failure to follow procedures, §192.605(a) and inadequate leak classification, MPUC Ch. 420: \$5,000
 - 5/18: Failure to expose facilities when using HDD, MPUC Ch. 420: \$25,000
 - 5/19: Failure to follow procedures, §192.605(a) and failure to properly implement a QA/QC program, MPUC Ch. 420: \$50,000
- \$150,000 Penalty Still Outstanding from 2017 for failure to expose facilities when using HDD



Enforcement Issues with NOPVs 2018 to the Present - Propane

- Civil Penalties Issued Totaled \$22,000
 - 10/19: Failure to follow procedures, §192.605(a); NFPA 58 violations; and failure to inspect relief devices, §192.739(a): \$10,000
 - 11/20: Failure to follow procedures, §192.605(a); Failure to ensure qualified individuals performing covered tasks, §192.805: \$5,000
 - 3/21: Failure to follow procedures, §192.605(a); Failure to ensure qualified individuals performing covered tasks, §192.805: \$7,000



Damage Prevention Program

Year	Total Locate Requests	Total Damages	Total Damages per 1,000 Locates	Gas Locate Requests	Gas Damages	Gas Damages per 1,000 Locates	Total Penalties Collected
2013	65,250	319	4.89	19,735	33	1.67	\$151,750
2014	63,843	280	4.39	25,281	39	1.54	\$118,850
2015	66,417	328	4.94	24,731	46	1.86	\$119,500
2016	66,479	154	2.32	23,030	60	2.61	\$149,500
2017	66,718	190	2.85	22,999	51	2.22	\$126,800
2018	64,744	149	2.30	22,122	53	2.40	\$245,000
2019	66,833	218	3.26	23,539	36	1.53	\$151,500
2020	74,639	228	3.05	25,154	53	2.19	\$203,000

Damage Prevention Program

(Continued)

In 2020, Emergency Legislature amended the Damage Prevention Law to require the Operators of propane systems, not under the Scope of Part 192, to mark their facilities in response to Dig Safe notices.

This was a result of a fatal propane explosion, in Farmington, ME, on September 16, 2019.



Incidents

We've been very fortunate to have had several incident free years.



Gas Safety Program Highlights 2018 to the Present

- Perfect scores since 2015 on our annual evaluations by PHMSA
- Very active in the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives
- Nathan Dore is an Alternate on the Technical Committee for NFPA 58, Utility LP-Gas Plant Code
- Sean Watson is an Associate Instructor at PHMSA's Training & Qualification Center (TQ) – Teaching the Non-Destructive portion of the Welding Course
- Recently the rulemaking process for revisions to Rule Ch. 420



MPUC Ch. 420 Rulemaking

- A collaborative process of the MPUC, Maine's Natural Gas Operators, and the NGA
- Major Highlights
 - Numerous Editorial Revisions
 - Added Criteria for the Installation of Pipe by Trenchless Technologies
 - Reduced Cover Depth Requirements
 - Mains in Public ROWs: 24" over the shallowest appurtenance
 - Services: Same as Mains with reduction at riser
 - Revisions to Valve Maintenance Requirements



MPUC Ch. 420 Rulemaking (Continued)

- Major Highlights (Continued)
 - Leak Survey Interval Reduced from Annually to Meet the Minimum Requirement of §192.723 and DIMP Written Plan
 - Revised Leak Classification and Repair Criteria regarding achieving Gas Concentrations of 0%
 - Revised Enforcement Procedures
 - Staff Actions
 - Reinforcement Reminder
 - Request for Information
 - Field Corrective Action
 - Warning Letter
 - Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)



MPUC Ch. 420 Rulemaking (Continued)

- Revised Enforcement Procedures (Continued)
 - NOPVs don't receive a Docket Number unless they are Contested Before the Commission
 - Informal (now called Status) Conferences have a Hearing Examiner independent of the Gas Safety Staff
 - Updated the process for Hazardous Facility Orders



2021 & 2022 Gas Safety Program Goals

- Strive for continued perfect scores on our PHMSA evaluations
- Continue our outside committee, TQ, and NAPSR participation.
- Work with PHMSA to tailor their Inspection Assistant software to include questions pertaining to MPUC Rules. This would allow us to work with just one inspection platform



Questions or Comments?

Thank You!

